

The following agenda was approved by the NASW-IL. Board of Directors at their November 2004 board meeting.

National Association of Social Workers – ILLINOIS CHAPTER

2005 LEGISLATIVE/SOCIAL POLICY AGENDA

1. Continue to work toward mental health access to LCSW's in all settings for Medicaid recipients.

Strategy: Continue working with IDPA, IDHS, the Governor's staff, the Illinois General Assembly, and mental health advocates, such as Health & Disability Advocates and the Partnership for Children's Mental Health to approve Medicaid reimbursement of LCSWs.

2. Continue to advance fiscal policies that will enhance the social work profession's ability to provide services and protect social work jobs.

Strategy: 1) Continue to partner with Work Welfare & Families, the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, and the A+ campaign/Voices for Illinois Children on tax reform. 2) Continue to work with administrative agencies, especially DCFS, DHS & DPR to advance the profession.

3. Continue to build relationships between NASW leadership/membership and Legislators/State agency leaders.

Strategy: 1) Invite agency administrators to NASW Board and membership meetings. 2) Hold a spring lobby day in Springfield. 3) Involve NASW members in legislative issues through email alerts, using the Legislative, Educational, Advocacy Network (LEAN). 4) Encourage members to "adopt a legislator."

NASW will also continue to participate with the Campaign for Better Health Care, Citizen Action, Work, Welfare & Families, and other human service coalitions to advance a fair and equitable human service and social justice agenda. When possible we will support bills dealing with aging, child welfare, education, disabilities, homelessness, human rights (including the ERA), health, mental health, welfare rights and other issues that reflect NASW policy. However, the majority of resources will be expended on the 3 priority issues listed above.